

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover capable of being installed over bone instrumentation during bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure comprising:

a hollow cap for encapsulating a part of a bone instrumentation which has been installed in bone, the hollow cap encapsulating a part of the bone instrumentation which projects from the bone, the hollow cap being adapted to provide a medically safe physical barrier between the part of the bone instrumentation and the surrounding bone and soft tissue, and

the hollow cap having a fastener portion adapted for securing the cap to the bone instrumentation.

24. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover or shield according to claim 23, wherein the fastener portion includes

a cinch ring provided with openings therein, said cinch ring not being a part of said hollow cap, and said cinch ring being tubular in form having one or more draw strings for tightening the hollow cap circumferentially around the instrumentation during said bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure, and

a suture string for securing the hollow cap to one of adjacent bone and adjacent tissue.

25. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 24, further including a plurality of first suture strings each first suture string having a first end and a second end, the first ends of the first suture strings being fixedly connected to the hollow cap, and the second ends of the first suture strings are threaded through the cinch ring for tightening the hollow cap to the cinch ring with the hollow cap extending over the bone instrumentation installed during the bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure.

26. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 25, further including a second suture string with a first end of the second suture string coupled to an edge of the cap and with a second end of the second suture string coupled to the cinch ring.

27. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 26, further including an additional second suture string with a first end of the additional second suture string coupled to an edge of the cap and with a second end of the additional second suture string

attached to the cinch ring and wherein the second suture string and additional second suture string are on opposite sides of the hollow cap.

28. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 27, wherein the hollow cap is adapted for removal in a subsequent surgical procedure.

29. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 23, wherein the hollow cap encapsulates substantially all of the bone instrumentation which projects from the bone.

30. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover capable of being installed in vivo over the bone instrumentation during bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure comprising:

a hollow cap shaped to encapsulate a part of a pedicle screw which has been installed in bone of a human, the hollow cap being shaped to encapsulate a part of the pedicle screw which projects from the bone, the hollow cap being adapted to separate the part of the pedicle screw from surrounding bone and soft tissue, and

a fastener securing the cap to the pedicle screw.

31. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 30, further including sutures that are absorbable in vivo for securing the hollow cap to one of adjacent bone and adjacent tissue.

32. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 31, wherein the sutures include a plurality of adjustable suture strings each adjustable suture string having a first end and a second end, the first ends of the adjustable suture strings being fixedly connected to the hollow cap, and the second ends of the adjustable suture strings are threaded through a cinch ring tightening the hollow cap to the cinch ring with the hollow cap extending over the pedicle screw installed during the bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure.

33. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 32, further including a non-adjustable suture string with a first end of the non-adjustable suture string tied to a lower edge of the cap and with a second end of the non-adjustable suture string attached to the cinch ring.

34. (currently amended) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 32, wherein the cinch ring has openings therein, said cinch ring not being a part of said hollow cap or-easing, and said cinch ring being a tubular form.

35. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 23, wherein the hollow cap includes pleats adapted for adjustment of one of the length, width and height of the hollow cap so that the hollow cap fits snugly around the bone instrumentation.

36. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover or shield capable of being installed over the instrumentation during bone repair or reconstruction surgical procedure comprising:

a cap comprising means for separating bone instrumentation which has been installed in bone in vivo from surrounding bone and tissue and for providing a medically safe physical barrier between the part of the bone instrumentation and the surrounding bone and soft tissue.

37. (withdrawn) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 23, wherein the fastener portion includes a lower frame of the hollow cap provided with an open, box-like aperture shaped for locking the cap to the bone instrumentation

38. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 23, wherein the hollow cap is made of a medically safe material consisting of GoreTex™, or Dacron™ or polyurethane.

39. (previously presented) A bone instrumentation cover according to claim 30, wherein the hollow cap is made of a medically safe material consisting of GoreTex™, or Dacron™ or polyurethane.

40. (new) The combination of a bone implant and a barrier comprising

bone implant capable of extending from the bone of an animal, and

a barrier material covering a portion of the bone implant and wherein the barrier material is a medically safe physical barrier between the portion of the part of the bone implant that is covered and soft tissue of the animal.

41. (new) The combination of claim 40, wherein the bone instrumentation is a pedicle screw.